

Jesse T. and Harriet Eitel Johnson family papers L399

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
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Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204
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Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Johnson, Jesse T., 1849-1916
Title	Jesse T. and Harriet Eitel Johnson family papers
Date	1862-1956
Extent	0.3 Cubic feet 1 manuscript box and 1 oversize folder
Language	English

Preferred Citation

Jesse T. and Harriet Eitel Johnson family papers, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Biographical Note

Harriet Day Eitel Wells Johnson was born in 1879 in Indiana to Henry and Catherine [Katie] Schramm Eitel, who died in 1881. She had at least two half-siblings. Her father was a prominent Indianapolis banker and financial manager for James Whitcomb Riley, whose sister Elva May was his second wife, marrying him on December 26, 1883. Harriet was graduated from Shortridge High School in Indianapolis, Indiana and attended the Castle Finishing School at Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson, New York, which was razed in 1944. She married Samuel R. Wells in Marion County, Indiana on December 14, 1912. Her second husband was Jesse Johnson, whom she married in Marion County on October 17, 1935. She wrote a book about James Whitcomb Riley, published in 1940 and was listed as a saleswoman in the 1940 census. She died in 1958 and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources:

"Eitel, Catherine E. Schramm." Find a Grave Memorial. Retrieved 2015/02/18. <http://www.findagrave.com>

"Eitel, Harriet". 1900 United States Federal Census. Retrieved 2015/02/18. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>

"Eitel, Harriet D.". Indiana, Marriage Collection, 1800-1941. Retrieved 2015/02/18. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>

"Eitel, Hattie". 1880 United States Federal Census. Retrieved 2015/02/18. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>

"Eitel, Henry". Indiana, Marriage Collection, 1800-1941. Retrieved 2015/02/18. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>

"Johnson, Harriet". U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current. Retrieved 2015/02/18. <http://www.findagrave.com>

"Johnson, Harriet E.". 1940 United States Federal Census. Retrieved 2015/02/18. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com> "Johnson, Harriet Day Eitel Wells". Indiana Historical Society. Retrieved 2015/02/18. <http://www.indianahistory.org/our-collections/collection-guides/james-whitcomb-riley-collection-1880-1956.pdf>

"Riley, Elva M.". 1860 United States Federal Census. Retrieved 2015/02/18. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>

"Riley, Elva May". Indiana, Marriage Collection, 1800-1941. Retrieved 2015/02/18. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>

"Wells, Harriet". Indiana, Marriage Collection, 1925-2012. Retrieved 2015/02/18. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>

Biographical Note

Jesse T. Johnson was born in 1849 and later became an architect in Marion County and surrounding areas in the early 1900's. Some of his work includes the Bona Thompson Memorial Library and the Owen County Courthouse. He also contributed to the Indiana building for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Diego, California in 1915. He was married to Harriet Eitel, who was James Whitcomb Riley's niece.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes three folders of photographs used by Jesse T. Johnson in his work, showing interiors and exteriors of many buildings around Indiana and the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. The correspondence and James Whitcomb Riley memorabilia primarily belong to Harriet Eitel Johnson, who was involved in the restoration of Riley's birthplace in Greenfield, Riley day, Riley Hospital, and various other commemorations of the poet. There is also a folder of writings by Harriet Eitel Johnson on James Whitcomb Riley and a train wreck involving Purdue football players. Collection material ranges from 1862-1955. Notable items include a photo of Mary Alice Smith, the original "Orphan Annie," a commemorative framed 10 cent stamp of James Whitcomb Riley, and a proclamation from the Governor of Indiana (Henry F. Schricker) to declare October 7th "Riley Day."

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by subject.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from Harriet Eitel Johnson.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2016/10/19 by Kori Nell. EAD finding aid created 2016/10/19 by Kori Nell. EAD finding aid revised by Lauren Patton 2016/10/24.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Panama-Pacific International Exposition (1915 : San Francisco, Calif.).
- Purdue University.

Genre(s)

- Correspondence
- Photographs

- Stamps

Geographic Name(s)

- Greenfield (Ind.)
- Indianapolis (Ind.)
- Owen County (Ind.)

Personal Name(s)

- Johnson, Harriet Eitel -- Archives
- Riley, James Whitcomb (1849-1916) -- Archives

Subject(s)

- Architects--1880-1930
- Architecture
- Library architecture
- Memorabilia

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Letters of recommendation and Bona Thompson Memorial Library materials, 1901-1942	1	1
Interior and exterior photographs of lodges, clubs, and other buildings, circa 1900-1915	1	2
Interior and exterior photographs of Owen County Courthouse, Bona Thompson Memorial Library, Crawfordsville Public Library, and several high schools, undated	1	3
Downtown Indianapolis associates and buildings photographs, 1894-1944	1	4
James Whitcomb Riley commemorative stamps and other memorabilia, 1903-1954	1	5
James Whitcomb Riley photographs, Riley Day and birthplace materials, 1895-1951	1	6
James Whitcomb Riley newsclippings and birthday celebrations, circa 1930-1954	1	7
Harriet Eitel Johnson correspondence, 1862-1956	1	8

Harriet Eitel Johnson writings, including James Whitcomb Riley biographical sketches, circa 1940-1955	1	9
James Whitcomb Riley scrapbook, undated	1	10
		Folder
Panama-Pacific International Exposition, Jesse T. Johnson silver medal certificate, 1915		OBC058